

January 26, 2017

Rappahannock Record

Kilmarnock, VA

Power grab

A bill was ready for a final vote January 23 that would abolish the zoning powers of every locality in Virginia to enable Dominion Power and other private utilities to locate electric substations and associated facilities anywhere they desire.

In other words, Dominion Power would like authority to place its facilities—including power lines—wherever they propose, with the agreement of the SCC. Without constant vigilance on the part of the towns and counties, such approval can be swept through to the detriment of those local populations.

No locality wants to pursue the kind of litigation we are experiencing in Lancaster County, and that which is under way in James City County, simply to maintain its environment and natural appeal. Dominion cannot be trusted to provide solutions agreeable to the affected communities without strong measures to restrain it.

This proposed bill would remove, not strengthen, restraint. Dominion is doing what it does well: it goes to the General Assembly for help overcoming any obstacle. I can only pray that Del. Ransone is listening to local voters and will cast a “No” vote on House Bill 1766. Time will tell.

**Joy Gwaltney,
White Stone**